

Covid Narrative January 19, 2021

Select person Karen Connolly announced that Sands, a local organization that helps during emergencies, is accepting grant applications to help businesses, the town and non-profits with Covid-related expenses. For more about the application or to donate visit: sandshelps.org.

There is a Select Board meeting tonight (Tuesday, Jan. 19) at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The link is on the meeting's agenda on the town website (scituatema.gov).

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said that all Scituate public safety employees, who wished to, have received the first dose of the Covid vaccine. He said this was a load off their minds in that they don't have to risk bringing the virus home to their families. The Public Health Nurse and school nurses have also been vaccinated. The second of two shots is scheduled for the beginning of February.

Phase 2 of the state vaccination rollout will start in February and when it's done, everyone over 65 will have received their first shot. The town has not been advised as yet, on how these vaccines will be administered, whether it will be through mass vaccination sites, private

providers or the town. For more about the Phases for vaccinations visit: mass.gov/covid.

Boudreau said the town had 97 new Covid cases over the past week; that is down from 129 the previous week. The town's positivity rate is 9.66 percent. He said yesterday (Monday) there were five cases, which is the lowest number since Dec. 28. If Scituate residents continue to be vigilant, the numbers should continue to come down.

At least until Feb. 1, Town Hall is open to the public by appointment only and the library is only available for curbside drop off and pick up.

The cranes are up for the Cole Parkway marina project. The Cedar Point project is ongoing and the site is very dangerous for walkers, bikers and sightseers, so avoid the area if you can.

Mr. Boudreau said in that area, the town has put out to bid the next phase of the water main replacement project that should solve the chronic brown water issues. Once completed, along with new hydrants and flushing gates, the water department will be able to get in there and flush the pipes, something that has not been possible because the existing water lines are so small.

Bids for the Widows Walk Clubhouse project are under review. A decision will be made in the next few weeks to see if there are sufficient funds for that project.

Gov. Baker has signed legislation putting the Ellis Estate safely into Article 97, which will protect the estate from development. Next step is putting a conservation restriction on the property.

Supt. of Schools Bill Burkhead explained that the Jan. 5 decision to go fully remote was a difficult one but done in conjunction with state and local health officials who agreed it was the right step.

Burkhead thanked the administrators and staff for making the transition seamless.

He planned to meet with the Medical Advisory Committee today (Jan. 19) to discuss the projected return to the hybrid model on Thursday, Jan. 21.

Burkhead also shared his heartfelt thoughts about Martin Luther King Day and his hope that as a community and nation, we can heal and come together. He noted that this past year with the pandemic and political division, times have been challenging. He promised to endeavor to do better as an education leader and a father and hoped the schools and community would join him in

reflecting and working together to make the world a happier and better place.